

NOTES ON THE DISTRIBUTION AND BIOLOGY OF *THERYAXIA SUTTONI* CARTER (COLEOPTERA: BUPRESTIDAE)

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Abstract

Theryaxia suttoni Carter is now known to occur in Queensland and New South Wales. *Callitris glaucophylla* Thompson and L. Johnson is the larval host of *T. suttoni* in both states.

Introduction

Carter (1928) described the monotypic genus *Theryaxia* and its type species *T. suttoni* from specimens collected at Stanthorpe in Queensland. *T. suttoni* is poorly known in collections and very little is known of its biology. As far as we are aware *T. suttoni* has only been recorded from two localities, Stanthorpe and Chinchilla, both in south-eastern Queensland (Carter 1928, Hawkeswood 1986). Recently, Hawkeswood (1986) recorded *Callitris glaucophylla* Thompson & L. Johnson as the host of *T. suttoni* at Chinchilla. We provide, below, further data on distribution and biology of this jewel beetle.

Observations and Discussion

On 31st July 1984 one of us (JAS) collected several small billets of recently felled *C. glaucophylla* near Lanes Mill Broom Flora Reserve, in the Pilliga East State Forest, approximately 48 km south-west of Narrabri, New South Wales. Billets were taken from trunks and larger branches wherever insect damage or larvae were found. The felled trees had been scorched in a forest fire earlier in the year. Billets were transported back to the laboratory and stored in wire-mesh rearing cages at room temperature.

On 12th and 13th October, 1984 adult *T. suttoni* emerged. Later adult *Ceresium* sp. (Cerambycidae) also emerged (15th Nov. 1984-10th Jan. 1985) as well as the parasitic wasp, *Helcon rufithorax* (Turner) (Braconidae) (29th Oct.-14th Dec. 1984). However, neither of the common cypress pine jewel beetles, *Diadoxus erythrus* (Wade) or *Diadoxus scalaris* (Laporte and Gory) emerged from these billets, but billets collected from fire-killed trees in January 1983 from the same locality were infested by *D. erythrus*.

T. suttoni is now known from three localities in south-eastern Queensland, Stanthorpe, Chinchilla and Western Creek near Milmerran (F. R. Wylie pers. comm.), and from Pilliga East S.F. in New South Wales all within the range of its only known host, *C. glaucophylla*. Since *C. glaucophylla* is widely distributed throughout central southern Australia (Thompson and Johnson 1986) it is probable that *T. suttoni* is much more widely distributed than is presently known.

C. glaucophylla is the larval host of a wide range of wood-boring beetles (Brimblecombe 1956, Hadlington and Gardner 1959, Hawkeswood and Peterson 1982, McKeown 1942, Moore 1972, Webb 1987). Given that many of these species may occur in the same locality and that, in this case, at least

two species emerged from the same billets, competition between species may occur. Further study of boring patterns and emergence times of beetles co-inhabiting *C. glaucophylla* timber may help to explain how competition is avoided.

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